

Waste Collection Companies Meeting Notes January 5, 2006

Companies with Attendees: Reston Trash, American Disposal, PDS, AAA

County staff: Joyce Doughty, Randy Hancock, Charlie Forbes, Pamela Gratton, Catherine Lunsford, Marion Plummer, Dynita Glenn

The meeting began at 5:00 p.m.

Introductions/Welcome

Joyce Doughty welcomed everyone.

Announcements/Updates

Jeff is not attending the meeting due to illness.

Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators (CESQG) events have been scheduled for the year. This information is included in the hauler newsletter. Five one-day Household Hazardous Waste events at remote sites have been approved by the Board this year.

Recycling Reports - Marion Plummer provided a handout reminding haulers of recycling reports due March 1, 2006. Questions, please contact Marion. County reporting is mandatory.

Benefits for Quality Customer Service Standards Participation?

County staff has added the names of companies that are participating in the Quality Customer Service Standards (QCSS) program to the County's website. Some collectors are using their participation in the program as a marketing tool when bidding for new work. If your company is not listed and you wish to be, contact Linda Boone at 703-324-5230. County staff will happily add your name to the list.

Collector Issues

None

Sanitary Districts Announcements

There are no active signed applications at this time. The petitions that were approved by the Board in the fall began service this week. February is the next due date for petitions and will be approved in April.

Recycling Program Updates

Pamela Gratton provided a new draft of the recycling brochure. County staff is still accepting comments and ideas. The purpose of the brochure is for collectors to send this flyer to their customers as part of a countywide public outreach effort concerning proper recycling of materials. This is a rollout in "soft form", the original intent being to get it out to haulers by January 6, 2006. Copies can be customized and given to customers; documents can be tri-folded and inserted with bills, printed in black & white or color and available as an electronic/PDF version.

Press release and ads posted in the Washington Post, Fairfax Weekly will run four months in January, February, March and April. Channel 16 will carry a generic video. Other outreach ideas are welcomed; please contact us if customized copies are desired.

AAA stated they used the last version, document was clear and understandable. A link can be added from the hauler's web page to access the County's link.

Highlights of Proposed Revisions to Chapter 109

Charlie Forbes presented a high-level review of some of the provisions of Chapter 109 that are being revised. The timeline has been set back a little to provide for further discussion and to fine tune. Haulers are asked to suggest ways to improve Chapter 109. Haulers may contact Charlie Forbes.

The handout shares some highlights of the big picture issues. The Solid Waste Task Force is better defining brush for purposes of requirements of collecting and limiting fifty pounds.

Tree removal – Staff is trying to come up with language that clarifies the collection requirement.

Q: Are Christmas trees exempt from collection? Some trees are too large and have to be broken by the blade of the hopper. Sometimes these trees are left and require customer to cut in half.

A: The trees are generally soft and manageable and should be collected as discussed by the Solid Waste Task Force. Staff will consider the issue of very large trees.

Q: Is there any language regarding brush & yard waste and an additional charge for service?

A: Six bundles are required to be collected every week as outlined in the section of the code. This does not preclude special collection for customers that exceed standards. The hauler can raise rates. The best way to address that is not as part of weekly service discussions but through providing clear and concise information to customers.

Yard waste proposed change; haulers will collect everything from March through December, no brush in January and February except Christmas trees. This removes the need to run separate collection for these two months. Yard waste can be collected with refuse. When looking at the brush numbers, in March there is a significant tonnage being set out, so the compromise language attempts to “trade” two months of not having to collect brush for one month of extra yard waste (and brush) collection each year. The maximum bag requirement was increased from six to ten bags to be collected.

Commercial Recycling - The Code will establish mandatory recycling for commercial properties.

Q: Is the County changing the thresholds?

A: All commercial establishments in the County will be required to recycle paper products; this includes non-residential, commercial and retail businesses. Existing requirement (threshold) would not change for other materials.

Emergency Response - would allow waiving of some Code requirements.

Q: Who declares an emergency?

A: The County Executive.

Permitting - Some language in the Code would change to make clear about license vs. permit; the hauling company will get a Certificate to Operate (CTO), while each vehicle gets a permit.

Q: Will there be a separate permit charge for recycling vehicles and will these trucks require inspection?

A: Yes, some form of registration or permit will be required, but at a reduced fee. The purpose of this is to get a better handle on the recycling program and system performance. However, haulers will not be required to hold two permits for vehicles that collect both trash and recyclables. The intent is to capture who is providing recycling service in the County and registration of every vehicle. If there are better ways to achieve this goal, we would like to know.

Recycling Requirements –

Q: What is the time frame for implementing the new recycling requirements?

A: New Code should be in place within 6 months. Six months of lead time after that should be enough lead time.

Special Collections –

Q: Any suggestions on how to handle special collections, large piles of debris left on the streets?

A: Haulers expressed concerns that customers do not want to pay extra for collections and this waste cannot sit on the streets. There is some pressure to put in a mechanism and someone has to pay for it. It was suggested to have this information written in service guidelines and show the costs. QCSS should include base service level and make clear from the beginning an extra cost will come along with the service.

Operational Items

Q: Can haulers be instructed to turn around at the fuel pumps if returning for a tare weight? Vehicles are currently making a right turn and cutting the line.

A: Joyce Doughty will contact supervisory staff to discuss this change request.

Haulers were asked to remind their drivers to give tractor trailers plenty of room when they are backing up, as these drivers have a blind spot and cannot see other vehicles. There were two accidents last month due to the tractor driver not being able to see the other vehicle.

Reminder, Overweight Permits need to be renewed on an annual basis. Haulers should check to ensure permits are renewed when necessary and keep speed at ten miles below the posted speed limit.

Radiation detectors are in place at both facilities. Policies and procedures are being drafted before the detectors will be put into service. Drivers will need to be educated if the detector is activated. The driver will be asked to pull to the side, the truck will be isolated from the rest of the facility.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: April 6, 2006 at 5:00 P.M. GOVERNMENT CENTER, ROOM 4/5